

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO SECSSTATE WASHDC 0389  
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 4569

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RO LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S VISIT TO ROMANIA

REF: MONROVIA 5031

1. IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN NEW RECORD FOR OFFICIAL VISITORS TO ROMANIA, LIBERIAN PRESIDENT TOLBERT SPENT TOTAL OF 20 DAYS (SEPTEMBER 10-30) HERE, SOME OF THEM REPORTEDLY AT BLACK SEA FACILITY FOR TREATMENT BY GERIATRICS WHIZ DR. ANA ASLAN OF BAD BACK. TOLBERT WAS GIVEN THE FULL ROMANIAN VIP TREATMENT AND MET WITH CEAUSESCU SEVERAL TIMES DURING HIS STAY. AS EXPECTED, ECONOMIC ISSUES PREDOMINATED WITH AN APPARENT AGREEMENT TO SELL WHAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY AMOUNT TO ONE MILLION TONS OF IRON ORE ANNUALLY TO ROMANIA.

2. BLAND COMMUNIQUE ISSUED UPON DEPARTURE OF LIBERIAN PRESIDENT NOTES SIGNING OF SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL ACCORD, ON BASIS OF WHICH COOPERATION WILL BE EXTENDED IN THE TRAINING AND PREPARATION OF SKILLED PERSONNEL, PARTICULARLY IN THE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL FIELDS. A "CONCRETE PLAN OF ACTION" WAS ELABORATED IN ORDER TO FURTHER ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN AREAS SUCH AS MINERALS, METALLURGY, WOOD INDUSTRY, AND PROCESSING OF NATURAL RUBBER. POSSIBILITY OF

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CONCLUDING A CONSULAR ACCORD WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. INTERNATIONAL

PORTION OF COMMUNIQUE SPOT-LIGHTED AFRICAN ISSUES, BUT CONTAINED NOTHING UNUSUAL.

3. ACCORDING TO LIBERIAN COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE HERE, VISIT WAS ECONOMIC SUCCESS. ROMANIANS AGREED TO RUN A SHIP INTO MONROVIA ONCE A MONTH. (LIBERIA APPARENTLY HAS HAD TROUBLE ATTRACTING SHIPPING), AND TO FURNISH IRON ORE AND WOOD PROCESSING EQUIPMENT, PRESUMABLY TOGETHER WITH TECHNICIANS AND EXPERT ADVICE. (HE SAID U.S., JAPANESE AND OTHER INTERESTS WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR IRON ORE EXTRACTION.) ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN A STEEL MILL PROJECT IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION. IN ADDITION ROMANIA WILL SELL LIBERIA SOME SMALL QUANTITIES OF BICYCLES AND LAND-ROVER TYPE VEHICLES AND OTHER ITEMS, WITH TRACTOR SALES A FUTURE POSSIBILITY, IF ALL GOES WELL. IN RETURN LIBERIA WILL SELL IRON ORE AND PERHAPS SOME RUBBER TO ROMANIA. LIBERIANS HAVE HELD OUT POSSIBILITY, THAT ONCE OPERATION UNDERWAY, SALES MIGHT AMOUNT TO SOME ONE MILLION TONS OF IRON ORE PER ANNUM. LIBERIAN REPRESENTATIVE ADDED HIS COUNTRY TRYING TO DIVERSIFY ITS RAW MATERIAL PRODUCTION AWAY FROM U.S. "MONOPOLIES", E.G., FIRESTONE.

4. COMMENT: ROMANIA'S DEMAND FOR IRON ORE IMPORTS HAS BEEN STEADILY RISING IN CONNECTION WITH ITS AMBITIOUS ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES (OVER TEN PERCENT INCREASE IN 1973 AS COMPARED TO 1972) AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO DO SO OVER THE SHORT TERM. THE ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES FROM LIBERIA, IF FORTHCOMING IN THE AMOUNT MENTIONED, WOULD SERVE MERELY TO COVER THIS ADDITIONAL DEMAND, BUT WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ROMANIAN DEPENDENCY UPON THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH CURRENTLY SUPPLIES SOME 60 PERCENT OF THE 10 MILLION TONS IMPORTED ANNUALLY. NEVERTHELESS, THE DEAL IS IMPORTANT IN ORDER TO AVOID AN INCREASE OF ROMANIAN DEPENDENCY IN THIS CRITICAL AREA.  
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## Message Attributes

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